WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for flame-perforating film, comprising:

a frame;

a support surface attached to the frame, wherein the support surface includes a plurality of lowered portions;

a burner attached to the frame opposite the support surface, wherein the burner supports a flame;

a burner pipe connected to the burner; and

an oxygen-enrichment system connected to the burner pipe.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, comprising a film contacting the support surface, wherein the flame of the burner is directed towards the film.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a backing roll attached to the frame, wherein the backing roll includes the support surface, and wherein the film is wrapped around at least a portion of the support surface of the backing roll.

4. The apparatus of claim 2, further including a preheat roll attached to the frame adjacent the support surface, wherein the preheat roll includes an outer surface, and wherein the outer surface of the preheat roll is heated for pre-heating the film prior to the burner.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the outer surface of the preheat roll is heated greater than 74°C (165°F) for pre-heating the film prior to the burner.

6. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the preheat roll is a nip roll attached to the frame adjacent the backing roll, wherein the film is between the nip roll and the backing roll.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, further including a temperature-controlled shield attached to the frame adjacent the backing roll, wherein the temperature-controlled shield is positioned between the burner and the nip roll.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the burner is positioned such that the angle measured between the burner and the nip roll is less than 45°, wherein a vertex of the angle is positioned at an axis of the backing roll.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a mixer, connected to the burner pipe, wherein the mixer facilitates the mixing of appropriate volumes of oxygen, air and a gaseous hydrocarbon fuel to form the oxygen-enriched combustible mixture.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, further including an air applicator attached to the frame adjacent the support surface for blowing air onto the support surface.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, further including a liquid applicator attached to the frame for applying liquid onto the support surface.

12. A method of flame-perforating film, comprising the steps of:

providing a film having a first side and a second side opposite the first side;

contacting the second side of the film with a support surface having a plurality of lowered portions;

contacting the first side of the film with a heated surface;

removing the heated surface from the first side of the film;

enriching a combustible mixture with oxygen;

igniting the combustible mixture to form a stable flame supported by a burner and fueled by the oxygen-enriched combustible mixture; and

thereafter heating the first side of the film with the flame from the burner to perforate the film.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the enriching step further comprises enriching an oxidizer with oxygen and combining the oxygen-enriched oxidizer with a gaseous hydrocarbon fuel to provide a combustible mixture.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the oxygen-enriching step provides an oxidizer with an oxygen ratio greater than 0.21.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the oxygen-enriching step provides an oxidizer with an oxygen ratio greater than 0.21 and equal to or less than 0.35.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the perforating step perforates the film with a pattern corresponding to the plurality of lowered portions of the support surface.

17. The method of claim 12, further comprising cooling the support surface to a temperature lower than 49°C (120°F).

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the cooling step includes cooling the support surface to a temperature lower than 41°C (105°F) to cool the second side of the film.

19. The method of claim 12, wherein the heated surface is greater than 74°C (165°F);

20. The method of claim 12, wherein a preheated nip roll is used for contacting the first side of the film, wherein the nip roll is attached to the frame adjacent the backing roll, and wherein the film is between the nip roll and the backing roll.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising positioning the burner such that the angle measured between the burner and the nip roll is less than 45°, wherein a vertex of the angle is positioned at an axis of the backing roll

22. A method of flame-perforating film, comprising the steps of:

providing backing roll having a support surface, wherein the support surface includes a plurality of lowered portions;

providing a nip roll, wherein the nip roll includes an outer surface, and wherein the outer surface of the nip roll is heated;

enriching a combustible mixture with oxygen;

igniting the combustible mixture to form a stable flame supported by a burner and fueled by the oxygen-enriched combustible mixture, wherein the burner is positioned such that the angle measured between the burner and the nip roll is less than 45°, wherein a vertex of the angle is positioned at an axis of the backing roll;

contacting a film against the support surface;

pressing the film between the nip roll and the support surface of the backing roll to pre-heat the film; and

thereafter perforating the film with a flame of the burner.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the enriching step further comprises enriching an oxidizer with oxygen and combining the oxygen-enriched oxidizer with a gaseous hydrocarbon fuel to create a combustible mixture.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the oxygen-enriching step provides an oxidizer with an oxygen ratio greater than 0.21.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the oxygen-enriching step provides an oxidizer with an oxygen ratio greater than 0.21 and equal to or less than 0.35.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein the perforating step perforates the film with a pattern corresponding to the plurality of lowered portions of the support surface

27. The method of claim 22, further comprising providing a temperature-controlled shield, wherein the temperature-controlled shield is positioned between the burner and the nip roll.

28. The method of claim 22, further comprising cooling the support surface to a temperature lower than 49°C (120°F);

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the cooling step including cooling the support surface to a temperature lower than 41°C (105°F) to cool the second side of the film.